

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1     **1.**    A method of using wastewater in the processing of fuels for  
2           a high temperature fuel cell, comprising the following  
3           steps:  
4           a)    using as said fuels a liquid hydrocarbon fuel,  
5           b)    processing said water by one or more steps of  
6                filtration, reverse osmosis, and cleaning to produce  
7                prepared water,  
8           c)    emulsifying said liquified hydrocarbon fuel with said  
9                prepared water to form an emulsion as fuel for said  
10           high temperature fuel cell.
  
- 1     **2.**    The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of  
2           cracking said liquid hydrocarbon fuels to convert an  
3           initial long hydrocarbon chain bond into a shorter  
4           hydrocarbon chain bond, and performing said cracking step  
5           as an electrochemical and thermal catalytic step.
  
- 1     **3.**    The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2           catalytically withdrawing sulfur and sulfur compounds  
3           including hydrogen sulfide from said emulsion prior to  
4           using said emulsion as fuel.
  
- 1     **4.**    The method of claim 1, further comprising supplying said  
2           hydrocarbon fuel and said wastewater into a common  
3           container and then performing said emulsifying step by

4 . . exposing said prepared water and said liquid hydrocarbon  
5 fuel to a sound vibration in said common container.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of exposing is  
2 performed by introducing said liquid hydrocarbon fuel and  
3 said prepared water into said common container directly in  
4 front of an ultra-sound vibrator.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising feeding variable  
2 quantities of said prepared water and said hydrocarbon  
3 fuels into said common container.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of emulsifying is  
2 performed continuously.

1 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring said  
2 emulsifying step for providing information regarding said  
3 emulsion and using said information for controlling process  
4 steps for producing said emulsion.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising starting said  
2 high temperature fuel cell with CH<sub>4</sub> (methane, natural gas)  
3 as fuel until an operating temperature of said fuel cell  
4 has been reached, and then switching over said fuel cell to  
5 receive said emulsion as its fuel.

- 1 . 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising performing said  
2 switching over continuously in an overlapping and stepless  
3 manner, whereby emulsion and CH<sub>4</sub> are used together as fuel.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of  
2 dosing said prepared water and said hydrocarbon fuel  
3 through positive feed dosing pumps which do not permit any  
4 backflow.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising electronically  
2 controlling said positive-feed dosing pumps in a closed  
3 loop manner in response to performance parameters of the  
4 high temperature fuel cell or in response to emulsion  
5 quality parameters.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12, further including in said  
2 electronically controlling step a switch-off function for  
3 shutting down the supply of hydrocarbon fuel in response to  
4 an emergency.
- 1 14. The method of claim 2, wherein said cracking step is  
2 performed inside a separate housing which is positioned  
3 inside an enclosure of said high temperature fuel cell.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising using thermal  
2 energy of said high temperature fuel cell for performing  
3 said cracking step.

1 . 16. The method of claim 3, further comprising performing said  
2 step of catalytically withdrawing sulfur and sulfur  
3 compounds including hydrogen sulfide in a separate housing  
4 which is positioned inside an enclosure of said high  
5 temperature fuel cell.

1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising using thermal  
2 energy of said high temperature fuel cell for performing  
3 said withdrawing step for desulfurizing said emulsion.

1 18. The method of claim 3, further comprising performing said  
2 step of catalytically withdrawing sulfur and sulfur  
3 compounds including hydrogen sulfide, by chemically binding  
4 said sulfur and sulfur compounds including hydrogen sulfide  
5 to form stable compounds and avoiding discharging said  
6 stable compounds into the atmosphere.

1 19. The method of claim 1, further comprising performing,  
2 directly following said emulsifying step, an  
3 electrochemical process for cracking or separating  
4 molecular bindings of organic compounds of said emulsion.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said electrochemical  
2 process is performed by passing said emulsion through an  
3 electric gap to subject said emulsion to a gap-electrolysis  
4 process.

1 . 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising forming said  
2 electric gap between two electrically conducting  
3 cylindrical members arranged concentrically one within the  
4 other, connecting one cylindrical member to a positive pole  
5 of a d.c. power source and connecting the other cylindrical  
6 member to a negative pole of said d.c. power source.

1 22. The method of claim 21, comprising using two pipes as said  
2 electrically conducting cylindrical members, arranging said  
3 two pipes concentrically to each other, and connecting said  
4 two pipes to said high temperature fuel cell as said d.c.  
5 power source.

1 23. The method of claim 20, further comprising measuring an  
2 electrical conductivity of said emulsion and then  
3 performing said gap-electrolysis when said electrical  
4 conductivity of said emulsion is at least 600  $\mu$ S.

1 24. The method of claim 21, wherein said d.c. power source  
2 provides a voltage of about 10 volts for starting said  
3 cracking of said molecular bindings of said organic  
4 compounds of said emulsion.

1 25. The method of claim 1, further comprising using kerosene as  
2 said liquid hydrocarbon fuel.